

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Page 1 of the application has been amended to recite the continuing application data. Page 17 has been amended to make the same changes as submitted in the response filed on February 05, 2001 in the parent application. Page 26 has been amended to recite the date of deposit. Newly added Claims 16-25 are supported by the specification. The substitute Sequence Listing is supported by the original Sequence Listing at pages 39-42. No new matter is believed to have been added to this application by these amendments.

REMARKS

Claims 16-25 are pending in this application.

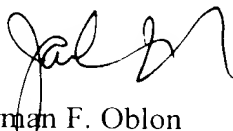
This application is a Divisional of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/347,001, filed on July 2, 1999, now pending.

Applicant submits that the sequence information recorded in the computer-readable Sequence Listing filed May 24, 2000 in the parent application, is identical to the paper copy of the Sequence Listing attached herewith.

Applicants submit that the present application is ready for examination on the merits. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 211110US0DIV
SERIAL NO.: New Application

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Serial No.: 211110US0DIV
Amendment Filed On: July 12, 2001

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows.

Page 1, before line 1, please insert

--This application is a Divisional of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/347,001, filed on July 2, 1999, now pending.--

Page 17, replace the paragraph starting on line 3 and ending on line 20 with the following paragraph:

--The multiple sequence alignment and evolution distance calculation can be performed by, for example, using a commercially available software such as CLUSTAL W included in the software collection "Phylogeny Programs". These programs are publically available from the Department of Genetics, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA [(available from [http://](http://evolution.genetics.washington.edu/phyip/software.html)] at their website: evolution.genetics.washington.edu/phyip/software.html. [see] See also Thompson, D. J., et al. Nucleic Acids Res. 22, 4673-4680 (1994)[)].

The phylogenetic tree can be prepared also by a generally available software (e.g., Tree View, Tree drawing software for Apple [Machintosh] Macintosh: by Roderic, D., Page 1995, Institute of Biomedical and Life Sciences, University of Glasgow, UK). Specifically, results obtained by computation on CLUSTAL W can be output as PHLYP format data, and they can be processed by Tree View. PHLYP (Felsenstein, J. (1995) Phylogenetic inference package, version 3.5.7., Department of Genetics, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA) is also included in the aforementioned Phylogeny Programs.--

Page 26. replace the paragraph beginning at line 4 with the following paragraph:

--Then, about 3000 strains of osmophilic bacteria obtained as described above were cultured in a medium containing 20% (w/v) D-glucose, 0.1% urea, and 0.5% yeast extract at 30°C for 5 days, and the medium was analyzed by HPLC to screen for a strain having the xylitol or D-xylulose producing ability. As a result, five bacterial strains separated from soil collected from the bank of Tama river, Kawasaki-shi, Kanagawa-ken, were found to have the ability to produce xylitol from glucose. These strains were each designated as strains P528, S877, S1009, S1019 and S1023. These five strains were assigned private numbers of AJ14757, AJ14758, AJ14759, AJ14760, and AJ14761 in this order, and have been deposited since June 18, 1998 at the National Institute of Bioscience and Human-Technology, Agency of Industrial Science and Technology (zip code: 305-8566, 1-3 Higashi 1-Chome, Tsukuba-shi, Ibaraki-ken, Japan), as deposition numbers of FERM P-16848, FERM P-16849, FERM P-16850, FERM P-16851, and FERM P-16852 in this order, and transferred from the original deposition to international deposition based on Budapest Treaty on [June __, 1999[June 14, 1999, and has been deposited as deposition numbers of FERM BP-6751, FERM BP-6752, FERM BP-6753, FERM BP-6754, and FERM BP-6755.--

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-15 deleted.

Claims

--16. (New)

17. (New)

18. (New)

19. (New)

20. (New)

21. (New)

22. (New)

23. (New)

24. (New)

25. (New)--